

Appl. No. 09/919,685

Amdt. dated 10/27/04

Reply to Office Action of 8/12/04

PATENT

Docket: 000468

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 and 11-30 are pending in the present application. In the above amendments, claims 1, 2, 14, 21, 23 and 24 have been amended, claim 10 has been canceled, and new claims 25-30 have been added. Therefore, after entry of the above amendments, claims 1-9 and 11-30 will be pending in this application. Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance, which prompt and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Examiner indicates that the listing of references in the specification is not in a proper information disclosure statement (IDS). Applicant herewith submits a supplemental IDS with the three patents 5,764,687, 5,490,165, and 5,228,054 referred to in the specification for consideration in present application.

Allowed Claims 17-20

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of claim 17-20.

Objected to Claims 10 and 14

Claims 10 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 10. Claim 10 has been canceled as a result. Applicant submits that claim 2 is now allowable and that claims 3-9, 11-13, 15, and 16, which are all dependent on claim 2, are patentable for at least the reasons provided for amended claim 2.

Claim 14 has been amended to include all of the limitations of original base claim 2 and intervening claim 13. Applicant submits that claim 14 is now allowable.

Rejection of Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15, 16 and 21-24 Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Burns (EP0994573A2). Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15, 16 and 21-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Neufeld et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,639,907).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include limitations similar to those recited in objected to claim 10. Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable for reasons similar to those for claim 10. The §102(b) rejection of claim 1 should thus be withdrawn.

Independent claim 2 has been amended to include all of the limitations of objected to claim 10, as noted above. Applicant submits that claims 2-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 are now in condition for allowance. The §102(e) rejection of claims 2-9, 11-13, 15 and 16 should thus be withdrawn.

Independent claim 21 has been amended to include limitations similar to those recited in objected to claim 10. Applicant submits that claim 21 and dependent claims 22-24 are patentable for reasons similar to those for claim 10. The §102(e) rejection of claim 21-24 should thus be withdrawn.

New Claims 25-30

New claims 25 and 26 are dependent on claim 21. These dependent claims should also be patentable for at least the same reasons as amended base claim 21.

New independent claim 27 recites limitations similar to those recited in amended claim 1. Applicant submits that claim 27 is patentable for reasons similar to those for amended claim 2. Claims 28-30 are dependent on claim 25. These dependent claims should also be patentable for at least the same reasons as amended claim 2.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments contained herein, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance, for which early action is requested.

Please charge any fees or overpayments that may be due with this response to Deposit Account No. 17-0026.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 10/27/04

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